

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Number: WIAB02-33

Date: October 22, 2002  
Expiration Date: 6/30/03  
69:138:cs:6354

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA GROUND FISH DISASTER STIPEND PROJECT

The purpose of this information bulletin is to transmit information about the California Groundfish Disaster Stipend (GDS) Project.

West Coast groundfish stocks and harvests have declined significantly since the early 1990s. There have been unusually low numbers of young fish for many groundfish species due to natural changes in ocean conditions. In response to this situation, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce declared on January 26, 2000, that a commercial fishery failure exists due to this fishery resource disaster. The U.S. Congress responded to this declaration by appropriating \$5 million to provide disaster relief. The funds are for the following purposes: 1) to pay compensation to individuals who have suffered a direct negative impact from the groundfish disaster, 2) to provide direct sustaining aid to such fishermen, and 3) to provide assistance to communities that are dependent on the West Coast groundfish fisheries and have suffered losses. Congress directed that the money be divided among the states of California, Oregon, and Washington in proportion to the impact of the disaster in each state. The share allocated for the State of California was 35 percent, which amounted to \$1,750,000 in federal funds and \$583,333 in required State match funds, for a total amount of \$2,333,333.

In order to receive the federal disaster funds, the State of California was required to prepare a grant request that specified how the funds would be spent. To best determine how the funds should be spent, representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Employment Development Department (EDD) Workforce Investment Division, and local One-Stops held five regional Groundfish Fishery Disaster Response Program town hall public meetings in late June of 2001. The town hall meetings were held in the coastal communities of Eureka, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Los Alamitos, and San Luis Obispo.

After collecting the comments, suggestions, and recommendations from the town hall meetings, reviewing written public comments, and consulting with an industry advisory committee, the DFG developed an application to the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS). The \$2,333,333, application requested:

- \$1,200,000 for stipends to individuals negatively impacted by the groundfish fishery disaster to help cover living expenses while they receive Workforce Investment Act (WIA) approved training (WIA funded or non-WIA funded) in a non-fishing activity (to be administered by EDD through an interagency agreement with DFG);

- \$300,000 for partial reimbursement to vessel owners or associations for the costs of meeting fishery observer program safety requirements (to be administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission through a contract with DFG);
- \$763,000 for collaborative groundfish data collection, involving the fishing industry, to improve the information base for management of the fishery while providing direct assistance to the industry (to be administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission through a contract with DFG); and
- \$70,333 for a part-time DFG program analyst for the purposes of program development and implementation (to be administered by DFG).

When the NMFS approved the DFG application, the DFG entered into an interagency agreement with EDD for the \$1,200,000 to be used for the California GDS Project. The DFG identified nine coastal California Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) to receive funding and training for operating the project. The database and assumptions used by DFG to develop the formula for the initial distributions consisted of processor receipts, commercial vessel landings, and number of charter boats in the local area. These were arrayed by percentage share. Only those LWIBs computed to receive a share of four percent (4%) or greater were recommended for initial distribution. Single points of contact from those LWIBs received training on October 18, 2002, and have been coordinating local policies and procedures with their One-Stop partners. **Effective November 1, 2002, applications for the GDS Project will be accepted.** Please see the attached California GDS Project Public Outreach Information Fact Sheet for a listing of the nine LWIBs, initial distribution of funds, single points of contact information, LWIB service locations, and additional information.

For the remaining 41 LWIBs, when affected individuals request applications for the GDS Project, there are two options. The first option would be to access State-level reserves. A total of \$240,000 has been reserved at the State level. One of the purposes for the State-level reserve is to provide assistance to one or more non-selected coastal LWIBs that may receive inquiries and applications from affected individuals. Contact your Regional Advisor to see if State-level reserve funding is still available, and, if so, the Regional Advisor will provide details about accessing these funds. The second option would be to refer the affected individual to one of the nine LWIBs, preferably to the respective LWIB that covers the area in which s/he had been employed in the groundfish fishery industry.

If you have any questions regarding the California GDS Project, please contact your [Regional Advisor](#).

/S/ BILL BURKE  
 Assistant Deputy Director  
 Workforce Development Branch

Attachment

## CALIFORNIA GROUND FISH DISASTER STIPEND (GDS) PROJECT

### Public Outreach Information Fact Sheet

**What and Why?** These federal emergency funds are intended to help individuals, dislocated from the groundfish industry due to the fishery disaster, pay basic living expenses while they receive Workforce Investment Act (WIA) approved training (WIA funded or non-WIA funded) in a non-fishing activity.

**Criteria to Qualify:** To qualify for a groundfish disaster stipend, an individual must:

1. Be a California resident;
2. Be an individual in the groundfish industry (Includes the vessel or fish processing plant owners, and their employees, e.g., skippers, deck hands, office workers, dockworkers, and fish plant workers. Vessel owners must have held a valid California vessel registration in each of the three qualifying years. Employees that were commercial fishers must have held a valid California commercial fishing license in each of the three qualifying years.);
3. Have been negatively impacted by the groundfish disaster (The individual must have been associated with the taking, landing, or processing of at least \$5,000 or 10,000 pounds of groundfish in the commercial fishery, or 1,000 pieces of groundfish in the commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) fishery in two of the three qualifying years. Employees of qualifying vessel owners or commercial fish processors must have received at least \$2,500 in compensation in two of the three qualifying years. The qualifying years comprise the calendar years of 1998, 1999, and 2000.); and
4. Be enrolled in the WIA dislocated worker program and receiving training in a non-fishing activity. (To qualify as non-fishing training, the training must decrease the individual's dependence on the groundfish fishery, which in turn will ensure that the size and scope of the fishery failure is not expanded.).

**How Much is Available?** A total of \$1.2 million is available statewide for groundfish disaster stipends (see *page 2* for initial distribution to selected coastal Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB)).

**How Much Is the Groundfish Disaster Stipend?** Groundfish disaster stipends are available for a period not to exceed 12 months. In general, the amount is limited to no more than \$1,000 per month for individuals without families and no more than \$1,500 per month for individuals with families (at least two people in the family unit). (Note: An individual may augment the stipend by other "earned income" that does not exceed the groundfish disaster stipend allowance. Any excess will reduce the stipend amount dollar for dollar.) ***The groundfish disaster stipends will be committed to individuals enrolled in training on a first-come, first-served basis. Commitments will be made based on WIA training plan expectations, and LWIBs are encouraged to establish waiting lists.***

**What is WIA Training?** WIA training is available from LWIBs through One-Stop partnerships. Some of the other services (non-training) available through the LWIB One-Stop partnerships include job search and job placement assistance, career counseling, skills assessment, and creating an individual employment plan.

**What Do Individuals Have to Do?** Contact one of the participating coastal LWIBs to apply for the program (see *page 3* for listing of LWIB contact information).

**Initial Distribution to Selected Coastal LWIBs:**

<b>LWIB</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Humboldt	25%	\$300,000
Long Beach	6%	72,000
Mendocino	11%	132,000
Monterey	14%	168,000
NoRTEC (for Del Norte County)	4%	48,000
Orange	4%	48,000
San Francisco	7%	84,000
San Luis Obispo	5%	60,000
San Mateo	4%	48,000
Reserve at State level*	20%	240,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>

\*The reserve at the State level is for the following purposes:

- 1) To provide assistance to one or more non-selected coastal LWIBs that may receive inquiries/applications,
- 2) To augment the funding of any of the selected coastal LWIBs' partial stipends (those unable to make a final full commitment to an individual, i.e., there is only \$4,000 left for a groundfish disaster stipend award to an individual eligible to receive \$1,000 per month for 9 months of training), and
- 3) To cover State administration.

**LWIB Contact Information:**

<b>LWIB</b>	<b>Single Point of Contact Name Telephone-Fax</b>	<b>Address</b>
Humboldt	Ann Branche (707) 445-6222 fax (707) 445-6276	The Job Market 409 K Street Eureka, CA 95501
Long Beach	Alisa Munoz (562) 570-3700 fax (562) 570-3791	City of Long Beach Career Transition Center 3447 Atlantic Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807
Mendocino	Peggy Priddy (707) 964-6950 fax (707) 961-1761	Mendocino Private Industry Council 310 East Redwood Avenue Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Monterey	Manley Bush (831) 796-3318 fax (831) 755-3246	Office for Employment Training 730 La Guardia Street Salinas, CA 93905
NoRTEC (for Del Norte County)	Barbara Woods (707) 464-7441 fax (707) 465-6464	Rural Human Services 286 M Street Crescent City, CA 95531
Orange	Margo West (714) 567-7371 fax (714) 834-7132	Orange County Workforce Investment Board 1300 S. Grand Avenue Building B, Third Floor Santa Ana, CA 92705
San Francisco	Brenda Brown (415) 923-4264 fax (415) 923-6966	Private Industry Council of San Francisco, Inc. 745 Franklin Street, Ste. 200 San Francisco, CA 94102
San Luis Obispo	Grant Nielson (805) 788-2601 fax (805) 541-4117	Private Industry Council of SLO County, Inc. 4111 Broad Street, Suite A San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
San Mateo	Kathy Smith (650) 802-5142 fax (650) 802-5173	San Mateo County WIB 400 Harbor Boulevard Building B Belmont, CA 94002